

Presidents + Dignitaries Visit

DRAWER 12

SPRINGFIELD

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# Illinois Springfield

## Visits from Presidents and Dignitaries

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

## SPRINGFIELD'S TRIBUNE

Harrisburg, Pa. Daily  
By Associated Press.Springfield, Feb. 12.—Spring  
home and burial place of

profusely decorated to-day with the national colors and with Lincoln pictures. The city is entertaining as her guests French Ambassador Jusserand, British Ambassador Bryce, William J. Bryan, Robert T. Lincoln, Federal Judges Grosseup and Landis, of Chicago; Seaman, of Milwaukee, and Anderson, of Indianapolis, and a long list of men notable in public and business life of Illinois and neighboring States, who have come to the Lincoln centenary celebration.

To-day's exercises include the dedication of a memorial tablet on the building where Lincoln had his law office, planting of Lincoln elm at the court house where Lincoln tried law cases, dedication of the memorial tablet at the Presbyterian church where Lincoln attended.

# HOOVER SEES GOVERNMENT IN CONSTANT FLUX

Springfield---Hoover Speaks to State Legislature

our State legislatures occupy a position of dominant importance as a whole.

NEW YORK CITY AMERICAN  
JUNE 18, 1931

## Praises State Legislatures As Laboratories for Nation Be- fore Illinois Joint Session

By Universal Service.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., June 17.—In his extemporaneous address to the joint session of the State Legislature here today, President Hoover said:

In the presence of this assembly one thought expressed by Mr. Lincoln recurs to my mind in the relation of the State Legislatures to the whole function and scheme of our Government.

It is indeed a much larger part than the immediate problems of the States with which they deal, for the legislatures today, as in Mr. Lincoln's time, are the laboratories in which new ideas are developed and in which they are tried out.

### LABORATORIES FOR NATION.

A study of national legislation and national action will show that an overwhelming proportion of the ideas which have been developed nationally have first been born in the State Legislatures as the result of the problems which have developed within the States.

They have been given trial; they have been hammered out on the anvil of local experience.

It is true that not all of the ideas come through this successfully. But even the negative values of the trial, especially in some parts of the union, are of themselves of inestimable value to the nation as a whole. And the ideas which develop with success become of vital importance to our people at large.

### CONSTANT CHANGE.

Ours must be a country of constant change and progress because of one fact alone among many others, and that is that the constant discoveries in science and their product in new invention shift our basis of human relationships and our mode of life in such a fashion as to require a constant remodelling and the remodelling of the machinery of the Government.

That does not imply that the eternal principles of justice and right and ordered liberty, upon which the Republic was founded, are subject to change, for they are not. But our machinery of government must shift in order to enable us to enforce these principles against the shift of economic and social forces due to constant discovery and invention.

And in these great processes



# PRESIDENTS OF UNITED STATES IN SPRINGFIELD

## Lincoln Lived Here, Thirteen Others Visited or Spoke in City

Almost a hundred years ago, recognition was accorded Springfield as a strategic political and geographical point when Martin Van Buren listed it on his itinerary while making a tour designed to further a political come-back.

Van Buren, president from 1837 to 1841, stopped off here on June 17, 1842. An excerpt from the State Register follows: "The ex-president accompanied by Judge Whitcomb of Indiana, arrived in Springfield on last Friday morning and our citizens, laying aside all party considerations, cordially united in greeting him with a hearty welcome. Never have we seen a public man so warmly received by his fellow-citizens." Van Buren remained in the city for three days when he went to Jacksonville and spoke at the Morgan house.

Millard Fillmore, president from 1850 to 1853, visited Springfield on June 14, 1854 during a tour of the west. The State Register said: "He was received at the cars by a large concourse of citizens. A national salute was also fired. He was introduced to the citizens by Abraham Lincoln in reply to whom the ex-president made a brief speech." Fillmore headed a deputation of welcome for Lincoln when the latter was in Buffalo on Feb. 16, 1861.

Lincoln lived in Springfield for the 24 years prior to entering the White House but never returned while president. His body was brought back and buried here.

Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson, made a short stop-over in Springfield in the fall of 1866 during a tour of the west. He retired in 1869.

Ulysses S. Grant was a state house clerk here and later recruiting officer at Camp Butler before starting off to the Civil war. He came here in October 15, 1874, while occupying the White House, and spoke briefly at the first dedication of Lincoln's tomb.

Rutherford B. Hayes, president from 1877 to 1881, visited here on Sept. 30, 1879, speaking twice during the day.

Benjamin Harrison, president from 1889 to 1893, spoke in Springfield on May 14, 1891 while en route home from a western trip.

William McKinley, president from 1897 to 1901, visited here on Oct. 15, 1898 during a trip to a peace jubilee in Chicago and Trans-Mississippi exposition in Omaha. He spoke in the court-house yard

Theodore Roosevelt, the "Rough Rider" president, dedicated the former state arsenal on June 4, 1903. He also made several visits here in later years. He was president from 1901 to 1909.

William Howard Taft, president from 1909 to 1913, spoke at the third banquet of the Lincoln Centennial association banquet on Feb. 12, 1911.

Woodrow Wilson, World war president, spoke at the fair grounds Oct. 2, 1912, while on a campaign tour for

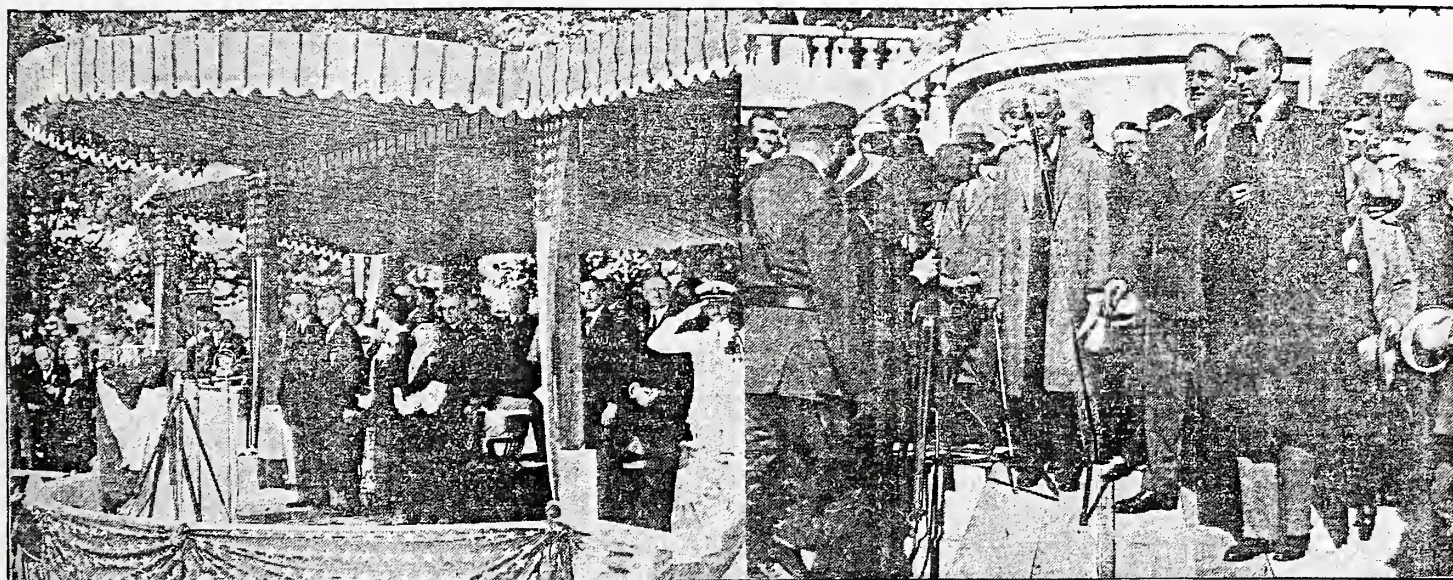
the presidency. Wilson was president from 1913 to 1921.

Calvin Coolidge visited here while vice president. He addressed a vast audience at the state arsenal on Feb. 12, 1922. A year later he was elected president, remaining in office until 1929.

Herbert Hoover spoke at the rededication of Lincoln's monument, June 17, 1931. He also visited Springfield on Nov. 4, 1932 during his campaign for re-election. He was in office from 1929 to 1933.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, present "New Deal" president, visited here on Oct. 21, 1932 while on a campaign tour. He addressed a capacity arsenal audience after visiting Lincoln's monument.

## *Two Last Presidents Greeted Here By Big Throngs*



Herbert Hoover is shown above at Lincoln's monument on June 17, 1931, upon the occasion of his visit to Springfield to rededicate the Lincoln monument. With him was Governor and Mrs. Louis L. Emmerson, and a group of state officials.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is shown above on the occasion of a visit to the Lincoln tomb on Oct. 31, 1932, while he was campaigning for the presidency. The same day he addressed a monster crowd at the old state arsenal.



1909  
pro-  
old  
d on the  
ner of 1st  
ns Sts. Follow-  
ing are highlights of "Lin-  
coln As An Orator" de-  
livered by William Jen-  
nings Bryan who also was  
he featured speaker at  
he Lincoln banquet that  
vening climaxing the  
entennial fete.

Ladies and Gentlemen—I  
speak myself fortunate to  
ave received an invitation to  
ake even a minor part in  
is great celebration. I thank  
e committee for the honor  
at it has done me and for  
e pleasure it has given me.  
he occasion, the one hun-  
dredth anniversary of the  
rth of one whom the world  
ns, has justified the com-  
g of these distinguished  
ests, representing two of  
e greatest of the nations of  
e world, one which we re-  
ember because of the help  
eived at a critical time,  
d the other which we re-  
ember because the relations  
ween the two nations illus-  
e how, among intelligent  
ople, differences may be  
gotten and ties of friend-  
p strengthened, in spite of  
r.

have been delighted with  
splendid oration which  
been delivered by the  
ator from Iowa. I knew  
too well to expect less;  
knowing that to him was  
gued the important part  
representing a well-rounded  
gy of Lincoln, I chose to  
k for a moment upon a  
icular feature in Lincoln's  
I knew that Mr. Dolli-  
would illustrate what I  
to say, but I felt sure  
he would devote so much  
time to the other char-  
acteristics brought out by  
Lincoln's life, that he might  
me just a little to say  
Lincoln as an orator.  
s part of his life and of  
qualities has, I think,  
overshadowed by his  
career as a statesman.  
Lincoln's fame as a states-  
man as the nation's chief  
ive during its most cru-  
el period has so over-  
shd his fame as an ora-

tor that his merits as a pub-  
lic speaker have not been suf-  
ficiently emphasized.

You will pardon me, there-  
fore, if I pass over the things  
that are most mentioned in  
his life, and the virtues that  
have been so eloquently por-  
trayed today, and speak  
of the part which Lincoln's abili-  
ty as a public speaker  
played in his career, and, through him, in this part  
of our nation's history.

Lincoln more than any other  
president we have ever  
had, owes his eminence to his  
power as a public speaker.  
Without that power he would  
have been unknown among  
the members of his party...

He was a lawyer of dis-  
tinction in the communities  
which he visited, but he was  
not known beyond a limited  
area. It was when, in 1854,  
he found a cause worthy of  
his championship, that he  
came from obscurity into  
great prominence. It was  
when the question of the ex-  
tension of slavery became a  
real issue, that he stepped  
forth and became the rep-  
resentative of the anti-slavery  
sentiment.

It so happened that there  
lived in Illinois the man who  
represented the other side of  
that question, a great orator,  
one of the greatest that this  
nation has known, skilled in  
all the arts of debate, polished  
and having had experi-  
ence at the nation's capitol  
among the nation's foremost  
men, and when this issue be-  
gan to take form, Lincoln ap-  
peared as the antagonist of  
Douglas.

Beginning in 1854, he coun-  
teracted as he could the in-  
fluence of the speeches of  
Douglas. When Douglas ap-  
peared in 1858 as a candidate  
for the Senate, to succeed  
himself, Lincoln presented  
himself as his opponent. Then  
began the most remarkable  
series of debates that this  
world has ever known. His-  
tory records no such series of  
public speeches.

In order to have a great de-  
bate, you must have a great

subject. You must have great  
debaters, and you must have  
a people ready for the sub-  
ject. Here were the people  
ready for the issue. Here was  
an issue as great as ever  
stirred a human heart. Here  
were the representatives on  
either side.

In engaging in this contest  
with Douglas he met a foe-  
man worthy of his steel, for  
Douglas had gained a de-  
served reputation as a great  
debater, and recognized that  
his future depended upon the  
success with which he met the  
attacks of Lincoln. On one  
side an institution supported  
by history and tradition and  
on the other a growing senti-  
ment against the holding of  
a human being in bondage—  
these presented a supreme is-  
sue.

Lincoln was defeated in the  
debates so far as the immedi-  
ate result was concerned.  
Douglas won the senatorial  
seat for which the turn at that  
time contested but Lincoln  
won the presidency in the  
same contest.

Lincoln won the larger vic-  
tory in that he helped to  
mold the sentiment that was  
dividing parties and re-ar-  
ranging the political map of  
the country. That series of de-  
bates focused public attention  
upon Lincoln, and because of  
the mastery manner in which  
he presented his side of that  
great issue, he became the  
leader of the forces against  
extension...

He laid the foundations for  
his party more than any other  
one man, aye, more than all  
the rest combined. He won  
that fight by his argument.  
His leadership rests upon his  
superb talent as a speaker.  
No other American president  
has ever so clearly owed his  
elevation to his oratory. Wash-

ington, Jefferson and Jackson,  
the presidents usually men-  
tioned in connection with him,  
were all poor speakers. I in-  
sist that, when the history of  
this nation's orators is writ-  
ten, Lincoln will stand at the  
top, for this nation has never  
produced a greater orator  
than Abraham Lincoln.

In analyzing Lincoln's char-  
acteristics as a speaker, one  
is impressed with the com-  
pleteness of his equipment. He  
possessed the two things that  
are absolutely essential to ef-  
fective speaking—namely, in-  
formation and earnestness...

Eloquence is the speech that  
goes, not from head to head,  
but from heart to heart, and

just as long as there are  
great causes to be discussed,  
just as long as there are great  
hearts that throb in harmony  
with the heart of mankind,  
just as long as there are men  
with a message to deliver,  
there will be oratory, there  
will be eloquence, in this  
world.

Lincoln knew his subject. He  
was prepared to meet his op-  
ponent upon the general propo-  
sition discussed, and upon  
any deductions which could be  
drawn from it. There was no  
unsurveyed field into which he  
feared his enemy might lead  
him. He had carefully exam-  
ined every foot of the ground  
upon which the battle was to

be fought and he feared nei-  
ther pitfall nor ambush. He  
spoke from his own heart in  
the hearts of those who lis-  
tened...

It is not by remembering  
ourselves, but by forgetting  
ourselves in devotion to things  
larger than ourselves that we  
win immortality, and Lincoln  
felt that the subject with  
which he dealt was larger  
than any human being, larger  
than any party, larger than  
any country, as large as hu-  
manity itself; and with those  
two essentials, knowledge of  
the subject and intense ear-  
nestness, he could not be oth-  
erwise than eloquent.

Lincoln had also the subor-  
dinate characteristics, if I  
may so describe them, that  
aid the public speaker.

He was a master of the  
power of statement. Few have  
equalled him in the ability to  
strip a truth of surplus verbi-  
age and present it in its naked  
strength...

The best service that any-  
one can render a truth is to  
speak it so clearly that it can  
be understood, and Lincoln  
possessed the power of stating  
a truth so clearly that it could  
be understood...

No one has more clearly  
stated the fundamental objec-  
tions to slavery than Lincoln  
stated them, and he had a  
great advantage over his op-  
ponents in being able to state  
those objections frankly; for  
Judge Douglas neither de-  
nounced nor defended slavery  
as an institution—his plan  
embodied a compromise and  
he could not discuss slavery  
upon its merits without alien-  
ating either the slave-owner or  
the abolitionist...

Lincoln was not only a mas-  
ter of statement, but he un-  
derstood the power of con-  
densation. The epigram is val-

uable because it contains so  
much in a small compass...

Just as Jefferson was the  
moulder of the thought of his  
day, Lincoln was the moulder  
of the thought of his time,  
and people who agreed with  
him found themselves quoting  
what he said. Why? Because  
he said it better than they  
could say it and better than  
anyone else had said it.

He was apt in illustration—  
no one more so. It is a power-  
ful form of argument. His il-  
lustrations were drawn from  
everyday life. They were sim-  
ple. A child could understand  
them and they made his ar-  
guments irresistible. His lan-  
guage was simple. Many have  
discussed whether Lincoln  
would have been as great a  
man as he was if he had had  
larger educational advantages.  
It is not worth while to dis-  
cuss that question now...

He understood the power of  
the interrogatory, for some of  
his most powerful arguments

were condensed into ques-  
tions. Of all those who dis-  
cussed the evils of separation  
and the advantages in be de-  
rived from the preservation of  
union, no one ever put the  
matter more forcibly than  
Lincoln did when, referring to  
the possibility of war and the  
certainty of peace some time,  
even if the Union was divid-  
ed; he called attention to the  
fact that the same question  
would have to be dealt with,  
and then asked, "Can enemies  
make treaties easier than  
friends can make laws?"...

Lincoln impressed his  
subject on an audience that  
the audience seemed to for-  
get him, and they have not  
remembered him as an orator  
because they were so intense-  
ly interested in what he said;  
and yet what higher tribute  
could he paid to a man's  
speaking than to say that you  
forgot the speaker because  
you were aroused by what he  
said to consider the thing of  
which he spoke...

But, my friends, while I be-  
lieve that Lincoln's oratory is  
responsible, primarily, for his  
prominence, and that it was

the foundation of all the supe-  
rior structure of statesmanship  
that was built afterward, still  
there was something back of  
his oratory, as there must be  
something back of all effective  
oratory. He planted himself  
upon principles that are  
eternal. He saw the relation  
between man and money, as  
expressed his belief in a let-  
ter addressed to the Boston club  
who had invited him to cel-  
brate with them the birth-  
day of Jefferson. He could not go  
but in his letter he commen-  
ded Jefferson's teaching and  
praised him. His eulogy of  
Jefferson was not surpassed  
by any other eulogy that has  
been pronounced on Jefferson.  
In his letter he said that his  
party believed in the man on  
the dollar, but in case of con-  
flict, it believed in the man  
before the dollar.

My friends, that was not  
transient sentiment. That was  
not a truth applicable to a par-  
ticular time. You may go back  
in history as far as you will.  
You may look forward into the  
future as far as you will, and  
you will find that there never  
was a great abuse and never  
will be a great abuse, that did  
not grow or will not grow, out  
of the inversion of the propo-  
sition between man and  
money.

Lincoln saw that man came  
first and money afterwards.  
He planted himself on that  
doctrine. That doctrine is the  
solid rock, and because he  
knew that he could not be  
mistaken, he was not afraid  
to stand there and face any-  
body who opposed him.

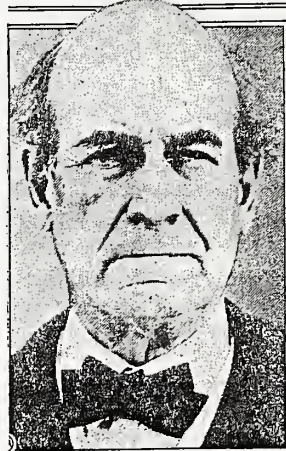
And to my mind, Lincoln il-  
lustrates the power of truth,  
speaking through human lips.  
He illustrates the power of  
truth as it inspires courage,  
for his moral courage was as  
superb as the world has ever  
known. He dared to do what  
he thought he ought to do. He  
dared in say what he thought  
ought to be said, and he asked  
not how many or how few  
were ready to stand and take  
their share with him.

Why has his fame grown?  
Because the truth for which he  
stood has grown, and I can-  
not better conclude my brief  
speech to you than to say that  
Lincoln, in his speech, and in  
his career, and in his fame,  
illustrates again that humble  
Bible truth that "One with  
God shall chase a thousand  
and two shall put ten thou-  
sand to flight."

Bryan's Address - 1-2

Bryan's Address - 2

# Highlights Of Bryan's Address



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

## focus on features



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